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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-11 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /078 W
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P R 281651Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5822
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PO
SUBJ: ANTUNES COMMENTS ON NATO AND COMMUNISTS

1. PORTUGUESE PRESS OF JAN 28 REPORTED ON FONMIN MELO ANTUNES'S MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS WITH EEC PRESIDENT ORTOLI AND BELGIAN FONMIN RENAAT VAN EISLAND. ANTUNES MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS ON NATO AND COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN PORTUGAL.

-- PORTUGAL HAS NO INTENTION OF ABANDONING OR WEAKENING NATO.

-- THERE IS NO QUESTION OF PORTUGUESE LOYALTY TO NATO DUE TO COMMUNIST PRESENCE IN GOVERNMENT, SINCE COMMUNIST MINISTERS
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OCCUPY PURELY "TECHNICAL" MINISTRIES WITH NO ACCESS TO POLITICAL

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OR MILITARY SECRETS.

-- THERE IS NO DANGER OF COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL. COMMUNIST PARTY COMMITTED MANY MISTAKES AND IS NOT TUNED IN ON PORTUGUESE POLITICAL REALITY.

-- IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO OVERESTIMATE EAST EUROPEAN INFLUENCE IN PORTUGAL.
ANTUNES ALSO STRESSED FAMILIAR THEME OF DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH WEST EUROPE WHILE PORTUGAL ALSO SERVES AS BRIDGE TO THIRD WORLD.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH OVERLY ROSY ON COMMUNIST THREAT ANTUNES'S REMARKS ON NATO REFLECT CHANGE IN POLTICAL CLIMATE SINCE NOV 25. PORTUGUESE LEADERS NOW HAVE NO TROUBLE SAYING IN PUBLIC WHAT THEY PREFERRED TO SAY IN PRIVATE BEFORE THE 25TH. THERE IS LESS AND LESS TALK OF NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT "FADING AWAY."
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